

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 02385 280056Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 USIE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-02

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 EB-07 /072 W

----- 108571

O R 262040Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6242

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2385

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 2385 VICE 00000)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: YE, OGEN

SUBJ: DISASTER IN YEMEN

1. TWO NIGHTS AGO HEAVY RAINS CREATED LIMITED FLOODING IN SOME PARTS OF SANA AND, IN NEARBY RIVER VALLEY SETTLEMENT OF WADI DHAHAR, CONSIDERABLE DESTRUCTION OF HOUSES AND CROPS.

2. YESTERDAY, IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE USG RELIEF ROLE EMBASSY AND AID MISSION HERE GOT IN CONTACT WITH YEMENI AUTHORITIES AND OTHER EMBASSIES WHICH TRADITIONALLY TAKE PART IN RELIEF EFFORTS IN EVENT SERIOUS DISASTER. CHIEF OF STAFF YARG ARMY GHASHMI, WHO IN CHARGE OF LOCAL RELIEF, SAID YESTDJDY THAT TEN DEAD. HE MADE NO REQUESTS, BEYOND LOAN OF BULLDOZER AND SOME PUMPS FROM AID MISSION.

3. AID WAS APPROACHED TODAY BY THIRD RANKING OFFICIAL IN
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PAGE 02 SANA 02385 280056Z

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS ABOUT POSSIBILITY AMERICAN FLOOD CONTROL

EXPERT COULD VISIT YEMEN TO ADVISE ABOUT CONTINGENCY EARTHWORKS,
CANALS, DRAINAGE SYSTEM WHICH MIGHT PREVENT DAMAGE TO SANA IN FUTURE.

4. WE HAVE HAD NO RPT NO URGENT REQUESTS FOR FOOD, TEMPORARY
SHELTER, BLANKETS, CLOTHES, MEDICAL SUPPLIES OR ANYTHING ELSE.

5. AT DINNER TONIGHT FOR
VISITING JAPANESE TRADE DELEGATION
ENTIRE GOVERNMENT AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAS IN ATTENDANCE
AND, WHILE INCONVENIENCES OF RAIN WERE PRIMARY TOPIC, NO ONE
MENTIONED DISASTER RELIEF.

6. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, FLOODING WAS LIMITED TO
AREA OF SANA BASIN AND IS HEAVY ONLY IN WADI DHAHAR AREA.
THERE WERE 70 DEATHS REPORTED IN WADI DHAHAR, MOSTLY WHEN HOUSE
WEAKENED BY RAIN COLLAPSED ON WEDDING PARTY. HOWEVER, EVEN
IN WADI DHAHAR EMBOFF WHO VISITED SITE TODAY CANNOT CORROBORATE

REPORTS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES AND 150 HOMES DESTROYED.

7. IT IS NOW MIDNIGHT AND I AM DISTURBED TO THINK YARG EMBASSY
REQUEST MAY RPT MAY REFLECT FACTS I SOMEHOW MISSED. HOWEVER, AT
MOMENT, I WOULD SAY WADI DHAHAR MAY CONSTITUTE CASE FOR USG
ASSISTANCE IF ONLY OF LIMITED NATURE. SANA DOES NOT RPT NOT RECOMMEND

THAT DEPARTMENT EXPRESS OUR FULL SYMPATHY TO YARG EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON AND AWAIT WHATEVER FURTHER INFORMATION AMEMBASSY CAN
DEVELOP TOMORROW ABOUT EXTENT OF DIFFICULTIES AND

NATURE OF NEEDS.
RANSOM

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